

geschrieben wurde, sind hier die Lebensfragen aufgegriffen, die auch heute für jeden Menschen aktuell bleiben. Zum Beispiel, das Problem der Auswahl zwischen Gute und Böse.

Der Schatten in diesem Märchen die Menschenwürde symbolisiert. Wir können nur erraten, was der Autor uns mit diesem Sujet erzählen möchte, welcher Sinn der Schatten im Märchen hat. Es gibt noch viele diskutable Fragen und Rätsel, aber wir haben nur die Möglichkeit, das selbst zu interpretieren.

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Пунктуационное оформление приложений и относительных придаточных предложений (на материале британских газетных текстов)

Работа посвящена проблеме пунктуирования приложений и относительных придаточных предложений в современном британском газетном тексте. Сравнивая нормативное употребление знаков препинания с их практическим использованием в британских газетных текстах начала 21 века, автор предпринимает попытку проследить изменения в узусе пунктуационных знаков (запятой и тире) при обособлении приложений и относительных придаточных предложений.

Punctuating appositives and relative clauses in newspaper English

The recent studies in the field of punctuation demonstrate that this topic is of particular interest to the researchers. The problem of punctuation is a multifaceted issue, thus in the last decade numerous research questions have been explored, namely: punctuation systems of individual languages [8, 9, 10, 13], punctuation systems of different languages in a comparative aspect [3, 5], usage of individual punctuation marks [6], punctuation of texts of different genres [1, 2, 4].

The current research addresses the punctuation of contemporary newspaper English (2000s-2016s). This field has not yet been elucidated. However, it is fair to say that the research undertaken by V. Ubushaeva [7] attempted to describe some new tendencies in the usage of punctuation marks in newspaper British and American English in the 1960s-1980s. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to find out the changes in the usage of punctuation marks in contemporary newspaper English by comparing and contrasting the standard usage recorded in manuals and reference books with the actual usage in newspaper English. Being unable to cover all the aspects of the research problem in the present article, we will focus on the usage of commas and dashes to set off appositives and relative clauses in contemporary newspaper English.

200 sentences containing appositives and relative clauses were randomly selected from the online articles (dated by 2016) in “The Guardian” [11] and “The Independent” [12].

Appositives and relative clauses have some common features: 1) they define the noun which they relate to and characterise the noun in a new way by renaming it or by providing some additional information about it; 2) they can be restrictive or non-restrictive, which determines the usage of punctuation marks.

An appositive is a noun (or a word-combination) which defines the other noun. Setting off an appositive with commas depends on whether it is restrictive or non-restrictive. In other words, if an appositive offers more information but does not limit the subject, it is set off with commas. Consider the following examples:

But Estelle Clarke, a former City lawyer and fair loans campaigner, has argued that the government loans are sold deceptively, tying students into contracts with rates that are closer to 6.6 per cent [The Independent 2016];

Parents now based at Jad'ah, a camp for displaced people south of the city, have expressed their frustration that their families' futures have been so drastically altered [The Independent 2016].

Appositives are also set off with commas in case they are expressed by proper nouns and follow the main word:

*The home secretary, **Amber Rudd**, used her maiden speech at the Conservative party conference last month to announce a crackdown on the number of overseas students coming to study in the UK, which will include different visa rules for "lower quality" universities and courses [The Guardian 2016].*

Consider an example of a restrictive appositive:

*Children living under Isis' rule are regularly forced to watch gory propaganda videos and guides on killing and making bombs, father of five **Hamid** said [The Independent 2016].*

The appositive *Hamid* helps to identify the person in question – *father of five*, i.e. it is essential to understand the sentence. Compare:

Karim, a father of four, said his kids lived in fear of being recruited to fight like their classmates [The Independent 2016].

Apart from commas, dashes are also used to set off appositives. Dashes are put around the appositive containing one or more commas to avoid the confusion like in the following example:

*The women – **Kelsey Clayman, Brooke Dickens, Alik Keene, Emily Mosbacher, Lauren Varela and Haley Washburn** – graduated in 2016 and had seen the entire "scouting report" [The Guardian 2016].*

The decision whether to use a pair of commas or dashes to set off appositives depends on the importance of the information being communicated. In the example below the appositive is highlighted by dashes, thus strongly emphasising the parenthetical element *sociology*:

*Andrews believes the curriculum is a key factor. In his own discipline – **sociology** – the canon taught as the foundation of the subject is "a collection of dead white men", he said. "And that's the same at every university." [The Guardian 2016].*

Commas would also be grammatically correct in this sentence. Unlike dashes, commas do not break the writer's flow of thought so sharply and do not focus so strongly on what is enclosed between them. With dashes, the emphasis is on the appositive, which is enclosed between them.

Similarly, setting off relative clauses with commas depends on whether they are restrictive or non-restrictive. In the sentence below, both

relative clauses are non-restrictive, i.e. they provide additional information without limiting the subject:

*“We find that these cognitive skills, **which are related to mathematics performance**, show greater training effects in late adolescence than earlier in adolescence,” said Dr Lisa Knoll, **who co-wrote the paper** [The Independent 2016].*

Consider another example:

*However, even in these regions, teachers are struggling to get on the property ladder. “It’s the deposit that’s the killer,” says 27-year-old Shaun Williams, an English supply teacher **who lives in north Wales** [The Guardian 2016].*

In this sentence the clause *who lives in north Wales* is a restrictive clause. The article deals with housing problems many teachers in the UK face. The fact is that teachers cannot afford to buy their own property, especially in the south-east and the east of England, while the situation in the north-east and the north-west of England, Wales and Scotland is better. But it is not always easy even in these regions. That is why the clause in this case does not simply give additional information about the subject under discussion (*an English supply teacher*), but it is essential to identify and interpret the subject.

The obtained results demonstrated that the actual usage of commas and dashes to set off appositives and relative clauses in contemporary newspaper English does not contradict the punctuation norms of the English language. In prospect, we are planning to extend the time frame to observe the tendencies in the usage of punctuation marks in newspaper English.

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